

First Check for Unemployment Payment Written 20 Years Ago

Madison, Wis.—(U.P.)—Twenty years ago today a Madison, Wis., photoengraver was out of a job and nearly out of funds. Then he got a government check for \$15.

The check was the first ever written by a government agency in the United States for unemployment compensation.

Nels B. Rudd, the man who received check No. 1, weathered his unemployment period. In the 20 years since then nearly \$15.4 billion has been paid out in unemployment compensation.

Paul A. Raushenbush, director of the Unemployment Compensation Division of the Wisconsin Industrial Commission, had personally directed the issuance of 9.9 million checks worth some \$197 million, including that first paid to Rudd.

Principles Outlined

The Wisconsin law under which that first \$15 check was written outlined the principles that "helped shape the whole unemployment compensation program in this country," ac-

ording to Raushenbush.

"Those principles were recognized by Congress in 1935, and by most of the state U.S. laws passed from then on."

A special session of the Wisconsin Legislature called by the late Gov. Philip F. La Follette (son of Sen. Robert La Follette) passed the first U.C. law in January, 1932. It took until 1936 to build up a fund of employer contributions to begin paying benefits to jobless workers.

The law also paved the way for special jobs benefits.

The nation's railroad workers have received more than \$700 million and unemployed veterans more than \$4 billion, according to Raushenbush.

There was a check signing ceremony here Aug. 17, 1936, and various spokesmen of government, industry and labor made statements. One proved almost prophetic.

Henry Ohl, then president of the Wisconsin State Federation of Labor, said check No. 1 stood for the "principle" that "em-

ployers must accept responsibility for giving their men steady work and an adequate annual wage; or else pay benefits to these workers during slack periods."

Ohl's statement foreshadowed the so-called "guaranteed annual wage" or "supplemental unemployment benefits" secured in last summer's automobile contracts.

Arthur Altmeyer, Madison, who went on to become the "father" of the federal social security program, also had a hand in the first U.C. law. He was secretary of an interim legislative committee that helped draft the 1932 law.

That August day 20 years ago may go down in social and economic history as a major event. If it does, the history books can be documented with checks No. 1. It never was cashed. Rudd, now retired in Madison, sold it for \$25 to a man who wanted to preserve it. The check is in a safety deposit vault at a Madison bank.



BELA LUGOSI
Heart Attack Fatal

Actor Bela Lugosi Succumbs in Sleep

Hollywood — (U.P.) — Horror actor Bela Lugosi died in his sleep Thursday.

The body of the Hungarian-born actor, who was 73, was discovered by his wife, a movie studio cutting clerk, when she arrived home from work at 6:45 p.m. (PST). She said he usually took a nap in the afternoon.

His physician said he had a background of hardening of the arteries but it was believed he died of a heart attack.

Girl Hurt When Hit By Rock at Crater Lake

Klamath Falls — (U.P.) — A six-year-old girl from California was injured seriously when struck by a falling rock at Crater Lake national park yesterday afternoon.

Little Karen Wehrman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry R. Wehrman of Hayward, Calif., was walking with her parents on the Lake trail when the rock fell, striking her on the head.

Networks Will Rush Tons of Equipment From Chicago To San Francisco Parley

Chicago — (U.P.) — This is headache day for the three major networks.

It's the day in which broadcasters must move out a couple of two-ton autos, a 10-ounce camera, cables, amplifiers, Betty Furness' cook, a scale model of the aircraft carrier Forrestal, creepie-peepies, walkie-talkies and a chimpanzee named J. Fred Muggs.

That is, assuming the Democratic convention ends on schedule.

"This time element is murder—getting everything set up by Monday for the Republicans. It's by far the most frantic move in network history," says Al Bryant, director of office services for CBS and the man bossing the shipment of all pool equipment and personnel.

Three Planes Chartered

The NBC-ABC-CBS pool consists of 38 key commentators and technicians from each of the networks, 114 in all. Each of the nets also will throw 10,000 pounds of equipment into the pool.

To make sure this joint shipment is sped on its way six hours after Sam Rayburn's gavel drops, Bryant has chartered three planes.

But that's not all. The networks also must get their main show on the road, too.

CBS has 280 additional people it must send to San Francisco. NBC says it has 402 additional people to ship and squeeze into 15 hotels, two motels and two private mansions in the GOP city. The mansions had to be rented by the network for the entire month.

ABC is moving 50 people out of Chicago and 75 more from Los Angeles to San Francisco. That network also must send about six more tons of equipment by plane and a station wagon equipped with a complete transmitting unit. The latter will have to go by rail.

ABC owns the 10-ounce camera, perhaps the smallest object of any value to make the trip.

NBC will ship the other automobile, a doctor, a lip reader (she is listed on the roster as

a "transposer") and J. Fred Muggs. NBC is moving six tons by air freight and four more by train.

In the CBS shipment are scale models of the Forrestal and Queen Mary and a large model airplane—all used in commercials. Betty Furness, who is saddled down here with 12 pieces of luggage, one typewriter, two hat boxes, one large camera case and assorted paper packages, also must go.

With Miss Furness will go the cook for her commercials, her press agent, an assortment of ad agency men and Miss Furness' personal assistant, former movie star Ann Shirley.

"I tell you," says Bryant, "this is the kind of special job which nobody in his right mind would tackle. But with a little luck, we may make it."

Worcester, Mass. — (U.P.) — Richard L. Lizotte was fined \$5 for driving with four persons in the front seat of his car. One of the four was riding to his left, police said.



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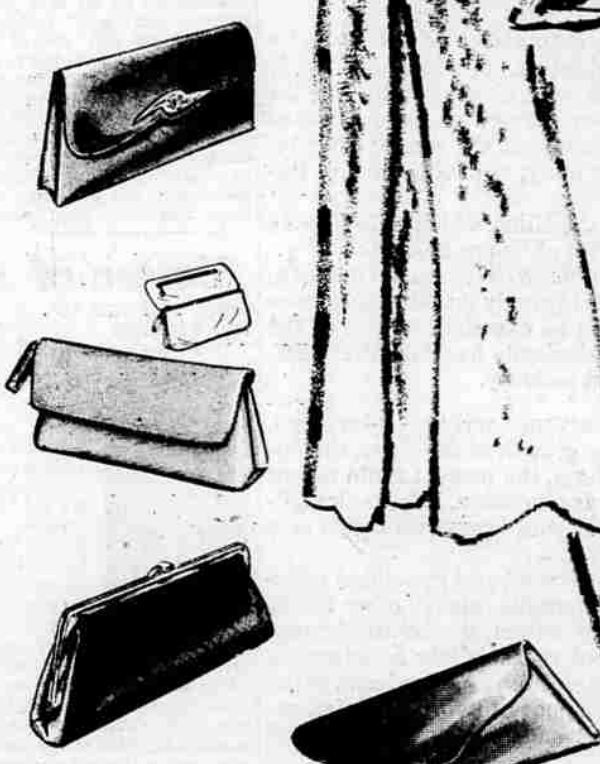


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